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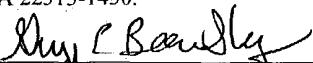
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Frederick M. Ausubel et al.

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: July 2, 2003

Customer No.: 21559

Title: RPS GENE FAMILY, PRIMERS, PROBES, AND DETECTION METHOD

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-captioned application, kindly amend the application as follows.